

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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A-01 OC-06 SY-05 SCCT-01 DHA-02 DPW-01 SSM-03 USSS-00

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INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 18

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

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COMSIXTHFLT

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CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6351

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

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SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 17: PALESTINIANS STIFFEN

NEGOTIATING POSITION; MILITARY LULL IN MOST PARTS OF COUNTRY

REF: BEIRUT 6316

1. SUMMARY:PALESTINIANS STIFFENING POSITIONS PRIOR TO POSSIBLE ARAFAT-ASSAD MEETING, WITH HINT OF INCREASED REJECTIONIST FRONT STRENGTH WITHIN PLO. SYRIAN FORCES IN CENTRAL MOUNTAIN AREA MANEUVERING AS IF PLANNING OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN AREA. TELL ZAATAR STILL SCENE OF FIERCE RESISTANCE. CHRISTIANS AND SYRIANS STILL PRESSURING TRIPOLI, BUT ELSEWHERE FIGHTING APPEARS AT LOW LEVEL. EFFORT BEING MADE TO ESTABLISH SOME FORM OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION IN WEST BEIRUT. SHIPS LEAVING TYRE OFFER EVACUATION ROUTE FOR LEBANESE IN LEFTIST/PALESTINIAN CONTROLLED AREAS. LEFTIST BEIRUT PRESS LINKS US EMBASSY DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS TO CHRISTIAN-SYRIAN PLANS TO ATTACK WEST BEIRUT. END SUMMARY.

2. TOP LEVEL PALESTINIAN LEADERS MET WITH LIBYAN PREMIER JALLOUD JULY 16 IN BEIRUT TO HAMMER OUT POSITION ON PROPOSED ARAFAT/ASSAD MEETING. UPSHOT WAS STATEMENT OF THREE CONDITIONS SEEN HERE AS LIKELY SQUELCH PROJECT FOR SOME TIME. JALLOUD TASKED TO INFORM SYRIANS OF CONDITIONS: 1) SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL LEBANESE TERRITORY, OR AT LEAST FROM ADVANCED POSITIONS AT SOFAR AND AHR EL-BEIDER; 2) LIFTING OF ALL BLOCKADES; AND 3) STATIONING OF AL FORCES AT ALL POINTS NOW HELD BY SYRIAN ARMY. MEETING WITH JALLOUD WERE ARAFAT, GEORGE HABAS#, AHMED GIBRIL (PDFLP-GC), FAROUK KADDOUMI, NAYEF HAWATMEH (PDFLP), YASSER ABED RABBO, ABOU SALEH AND TAYSSIR KUBAA (PFLP). STRONG REJECTIONIST FRONT REPRESENTATION AND STIFFENING ATTITUDE MAY REPRESENT PALESTININ CLOSING OF RANKS IN FACE OF INCREASING SYRIAN THREAT.

3. IN CENTRAL MOUNTAIN AREA,SYRIAN TROOPS HAVE BEGUN WHAT MAY BE ENCIRCLING MOVEMENT AGAINST PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST FORCES. ROAD NORTH BETWEEN HAMMANA SALEMA CUT BY RYSIANS. PRESS CONJECTURES THIS COULD MEAN NEW ACTION AT ALEY AND MDEIREJ, ACCESS POINT TO BOTH SOUTH METN VIA HAMMANA AND SOUTH INTO THE CHOUF. SYRIAN FORCES AT SOFAR, FAR FROM WITHDRAWING, SAID CUTTING ACCESS ROADS BETWEEN ALEY AND PALESTINIAN/ LEFTIST FORCES DEPLOYED ALONG DAMASCUS ROAD. TRAVELERS CONFIDENTIAL

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ARRIVING BEIRUT JULY 16 SAID GREAT NUMBERS SYRIAN TROOPS ON MOVE ALONG ROAD FROM MASNAA TO ROUEISSAT/SOFAR. SYRIANS SAID PREVENTING IMPORT OF GASOLINE ABOVE SUPPLY NEEDED TO REACH BEIRUT.

4. HARD-PRESSED REMNANTS CONTINUE TELL ZAATAR HOLDOUT, CLAIMING REPULSION OF TWO ASSAULTS JULY 16. THREE SWEDISH MEDICAL PERSONNEL REPORTED STILL AT TELL ZAATAR, TOOUGH ONE

WOUNDED. LEFTIST SOURCES CLAIM SOME 3000 RIGHTIST FORCES MOBILIZED AT DORA FOR NEXT ATTACK, ON NABAA, WHICH LEFT FEARS MAY COME WITHIN 24 HOURS.

5. IN NORTH, TRIPOLI REMAINS UNDER SIEGE FROM THREE SIDES AND MUTUAL BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE BETWEEN TRIPOLI AND ZGHORTA. SYRIANS CONTINUE INTENSIVE PRESSURE ON NAHR EL-BARED PALESTINIAN CAMP, BUT HAVE NOT YET ATTACKED IT ON GROUND. THE KOURA IS QUIET. BEKAA ALSO QUIET, WITH BAALBEK UNDER FULL SYRIAN CONTROL. MUTUAL BOMBARDMENTS AT SEVERAL HOT POINTS IN METN. IN BEIRUT, SPORADIC BOMBARDMENTS OF EAST AND WEST RESIDENTIAL SECTORS CONTINUE, ESPECIALLY AT ASHRIFIYYAH, RAOUCHE AND HAMRA. CENTER CITY CONFRONTATION LINE LULL CONTINUES, BUT SNIPERS VERY ACTIVE IN CITY AS WELL AS IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST SUBURBS. WE UNDERSTAND MOST PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS IN PORT AREA NOW ARE OF PFLP-GC AFFILIATION AND DO NOT INCLUDE Y LEBANESE MOSLEMS/LEFTISTS. IN SOUTH, TWO SYRIAN BATTALIONS REMAIN AT JEZZINE, WHICH KEEPS SIDON PORT WITHIN ARTILLERY RANGE, THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME LIMITED PULLBACK TOWARD THE BEKAA. SOME AL TROOPS MAY HAVE ARRIVED IN SIDON AREA. HOWEVER, SYRIAN AL COMPONENT NOT YET REPRESENTED AT SIDON.

6. RAS BEIRUT CITIZENS COMMITTEE, SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS "UNITED FRONT FOR RAS BEIRUT," HEADED BY DR. NAJIB ABU HAIDAR (EX-PFLP) SAYS IT HAS AGREEMENT WHEREBY IT WILL TAKE OVER SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS IN WEST BEIRUT FROM FATAH. AGREEMENT SAID SIGNED BY FATAH POLITICAL BUREAU HEAD FAROUK KADDOUMI AND PREMIER RACHID KARAME. SOME LOCAL MODERATE LEADERS HOPEFUL, BUT WE PESSIMISTIC ON ABILITY CIVILIAN COMMITTEE ADMINISTER SECURITY IN CITY OF ARMED FACTIONS AND SUSPECT GROUP IS FATAH TOOL.

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7. L'ORIENT LE JOUR PUBLISHES REPORT OF "MASSIVE DEPARTURES" OF LEBANESE CIVILIANS FROM TYRE, NOW ONLY PORT AVAILABLE TO MOST MOSLEM FAMILITES. NEWSPAPER SAYS SOME 1500 PERSONS LEFT TYRE JULY 16 IN THREE SHIPS. REFUGEES WERE WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND MEN IN SEARCH OF WORK MAINLY IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES.

8. LEFTIST PRESS IN BEIRUT JULY 17 DETAILS ALLEGED PLANS FOR LARGE-SCALE ATTACK ON WEST BEIRUT BY CHRISTIANS AND SYRIANS, BY LAND AND SEA, WITH US NAVAL SUPPORT. STORY LINKS ANNOUNCED DEPARTURE BEING ORGANIZED BY US EMBASSY WITH PLAN (SEPTTEL). SEELYE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT06351
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760276-0649
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760748/aaaabpns.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 6316
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 17: PALESTINIANS STIFFEN NEGOTIATING POSITION; MILITARY LULL IN MOST PARTS OF COUNTRY
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006